



MONTHLY REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

APRIL | 2023

Center/Division: RTC-CAR

PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING ON COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Extension is a process of working with the people to improve their standard of living. It involves helping farmers and fisherfolks to improve their productivity in agriculture and developing their abilities to direct their own future development. It aims to help farm families acquire new knowledge and skills along those lines of their current interest and need and which are closely related to increasing farm production and improving physical level of living of rural farm families. It is designed to attain changes in the knowledge of things known, in skills of things done; and changes in attitude of things felt. It is guided by the principle of working with its clients; working with the different target groups in the community; working with what the clients know and have; and involvementPAF of the community in all aspects.</p> <p>The Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), who are the primary agents of performing this, are guided by this principle. To work this out, the task begins with knowing the community and starting where they are through a Community Needs Assessment (CNA). An assessment and analysis of the community issues, needs, problems, resources, and assets leads to the adoption of appropriate interventions and strategies. People act collectively in solving their issues/problems and in meeting their needs. This CNA is a sequel of the Basic Course on Agricultural Extension which was completed by mostly new AEWs of CAR.</p> <p>It is then imperative to capacitate the Agriculture Workforce to help them assess and surface out their agriculture needs in their localities through this Community Needs Assessment. They will be capacitated on the tools and skills of conducting needs assessment and come up with a bottoms-up identification of needs as basis for extension interventions. The activity was completed by 30 AEWs on April 18-20, 2023, conducted at Grand Zion Garden and Resort, Tabuk City, Kalinga.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>“I am grateful for the learnings I learned in these 3 days training. This training is a big help to me personally, considering that I am newly employed in our municipality. It helped me improve my knowledge, confidence, and communication skills. Thanks to our resource person and to the ATI staff who patiently facilitated and accommodated us all throughout this training.” Jhon Rod B. Patongao, Agricultural Technologist, Tabuk City, Kalinga</i></p> <p><i>“It is my first time encountering a farmer’s wheel and transect map. The outputs here are very useful once we, AEWs, conduct our own community assessment in our own localities. For me, these tools will make our work a lot easier. Thanks to our speaker for introducing, it to us. And also, thanks to the training management team for inviting us to trainings like this. We hope to have more trainings conducted by you in the future.” Perfecto B. Pagtud Jr., Administrative Officer V, Tabuk City, Kalinga</i></p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>HARNESSING MODERN ADVISORY SERVICE TO RICE FARMING: A TRAINING ON RICE CROP MANAGER 4.0</p> <p>Rice is a staple food for most Filipinos, increasing the imperative for local supplies of grain to meet the demand. For production to increase to meet this growing population pressure as well as respond to other challenges such as climate change and environmental sustainability, certain efficiency and productivity gains are critical for rice production systems. One way to accomplish these required gains is by promoting and adopting the best scientifically grounded crop management practices.</p> <p>In the Philippines, Rice Crop Manager (RCM) has blended digital technology and robust scientific research to generate a nutrient and crop management recommendation specific to a farmer's field that, if followed, will boost yields and incomes. RCM Advisory Service (RCMAS) is a bundle of tools and services that collects data on rice farmers and their fields and provides precise, field-specific recommendations. Through the years, researchers continued to improve the Rice Crop Manager. Currently, the RCM platform design updated an android app with sync data was launched.</p> <p>Familiarization of AEWs with these updates is necessary for an effective adaptation and sharing of technology to farmers, thus this training. Through the years that RCM was conducted, assessment of what has been done and the problems encountered during its implementation must be addressed for better performance of the implementing unit. This is also an avenue for them to evaluate and assess their performance in the accomplishment of their set targets under the Rice Crop Manager Program.</p> <p>Completers of the three-day training were 31 AEWs (9 male and 22 female) conducted on April 11-13, 2023, held at Bocos, Banaue, Ifugao.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"Thank you very much because we learned a lot from this training. We have been conducting geotagging, but I don't have formal training in RCM or geotagging, so as a strategy, I must ask every time what to do and how to do it, but with this, I can confidently do it on my own."</i> Ms. Devi Rose Pumalo, Lagawe, Ifugao</p> <p><i>"This training is a big help for our AEWs since we are the ones who are always on the field. We are thankful to the speakers for sharing their knowledge on this RCM"</i> Ms. Devora Ventura, Paracelis, Mt. Province</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>DIGITAL FARMERS PROGRAM (DFP 103) – 3 BATCHES</p> <p>The Digital Farmer’s Program (DFP) is a project between the Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) and SMART communications Inc. which consists of a ladderized approach in teaching small-scale farmers nationwide with basic digital tools and technologies, particularly social media. According to House Bill No. S336 dated March 2017, Filipino small-scale farmer’s age is 57 years old with an average educational level of sixth grade. More than 70% or a great majority of the country’s farm workers did not finish primary and secondary levels though there are public school offerings.</p> <p>With the challenge of upgrading farmers’ knowledge, the program aims to be one of the many building blocks of digital inclusion in small-scale farming. Through these goals, collaborating with DA-ATI and acting as conduit to the Government’s national plan on sustainable agriculture and inclusive growth may directly accelerate productivity-improving farming technologies.</p> <p>Farmers have been trained in production processes and are abreast with production technologies. However, with the fast-evolving technology worldwide, they cannot cope with big companies, especially when it comes to promotion and marketing. As felt during the COVID-19 pandemic wherein marketing and delivery of products are very fast online, there is a need to train our farmers in digitalization especially on the promotion and marketing of their products. The Digital Farmers Program (DFP) of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) aims to equip farmers with knowledge and skills on how to use basic digital tools including social media, climate and weather monitoring applications, and online payment options.</p> <p>This month, 3 batches were undertaken. Details were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="792 1024 1445 1174"> <thead> <tr> <th>Batch</th> <th>Date Conducted</th> <th>Number of Pax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Batch 1</td> <td>April 12-14</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 2</td> <td>April 17-18</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 3</td> <td>April 12-14</td> <td>25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Impressions: <i>“Age is not a hindrance to learn the modern technologies to make their farming better. Through this training, we are encouraged to access/operate the smartphone even when we don’t know what to do.” Ms. Estrelita Baga</i></p> <p><i>“By this training we can promote, sell and market our products through online platform with less hassle and farmers can be at par with the good pricing in the market.” Ms. Jerome Bisquerra</i></p>	Batch	Date Conducted	Number of Pax	Batch 1	April 12-14	24	Batch 2	April 17-18	24	Batch 3	April 12-14	25
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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>CAPABILITY ENHANCEMENT FOR FARMERS: TRAINING ON INTEGRATED RICE FARMING SYSTEM FOR FARMERS</p> <p>The integrated RCE-based farming system is a sustainable and innovative approach to agricultural production that integrates various components of farming such as crops, livestock, and natural resources in a holistic manner. This farming system aims to enhance productivity, reduce environmental degradation, and improve the livelihoods of farmers.</p> <p>This training on the integrated RCE-based farming system in Apayao is a rational step towards promoting sustainable agriculture, mitigating the impact of climate change, and improving the livelihoods of farmers in the area. It is an innovative approach that would integrate various components of farming in a holistic manner, promote environmental sustainability, and promote social inclusion and cultural diversity.</p> <p>With such, the activity was completed by 23 Farmers and 1 AEW (24 pax) held on April 11-13, 2023, at Conner, Apayao.</p> <p>Impressions: <i>"I have learned a lot in this training. I learned the proper methods and techniques in farming just like the pest management, right application of fertilizer, water management and livestock production. Also, I have realized that in doing the right methods and practices in rice farming, you will reap abundantly." Ms. Ronalyn Malinis</i></p> <p><i>"I'm thankful for this training because I was reminded about transformational leadership. Also, I'm grateful because I have learned the PalayCheck System: Keycheck 1-9 and how to produce vegetables in a safer way. I believe that I will apply on my own farm all the learnings and insights I learned from this three-day training. Thank you and God bless." Mr. Joshua Carlos</i></p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>CAPABILITY ENHANCEMENT FOR AEWs: TRAINING ON PALAYCHECK SYSTEM WITH EMPHASIS ON INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM</p> <p>Through the years, PalayCheck System underwent review and update through the effort of our scientists, researchers, and farmer partners inserting recommendations from various key players in rice production. AEWs play an important role in the dissemination of farming technologies to the farmers. These technologies help farmers lower their production costs while increasing their yield.</p> <p>Last semester, it was agreed among ATI-CAR and RFO-CAR to fund Farmer Field School to be conducted by the LGUs, this will be co-funded by DA-RFO-CAR and the LGU. For the Center's counterpart, the office shall conduct training on PalayCheck System for AEWs to prepare them for the conduct of FFS in CY 2024.</p> <p>Hence, this training was attended by 21 AEWs conducted on April 24-28 at Asuplan Hall, ATI-RTC-CAR. Resource speakers during the training were Ms. Rowena F. Billig, Agriculturist II, Ms. Vicky May L. Guinayen, Training Specialist I, Ms. Resley Ann G. Sumedca, Training Specialist II, Mr. Jaypee D. Na-oy, Agriculturist I (RCEF Program), Ms. Perla Epie, DMO I, Mr. Rogelio B. Tanguid, Supervising Agriculturist, Ms. Jeziel S. Awas, Agriculturist I, Ms. Maria Kristina Mercedes E. Javier, Chemist II, and Ms. Alona Jean Astrera, Chemist III.</p> <p><i>Impressions:</i></p> <p><i>"Before anything else, I want to thank you ATI for this training because I learned a lot especially the Palay Check System topics. This training is timely, all the knowledge, ideas, and new information that I have learned will help us as we conduct the FFS in our area. Also, rice applications such as LCC and MOET are very helpful to me. Rest assured that I will re-echo the learnings to my co-workers and to our beloved farmers."</i> Ms. Cathyrine Laguna, MLGU Conner</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING ON INTEGRATED RICE-BASED FARMING SYSTEM FOR FARMERS, BATCH 1</p> <p>The Rice-Based Integrated Farming System (RBIFS) has been practiced by the indigenous peoples of Kalinga and Ifugao for thousands of years. This traditional farming system involves the simultaneous cultivation of rice paddies, fishponds, vegetable gardens, and livestock production in the same agricultural land. The RBIFS is a sustainable approach to agriculture that maximizes resource efficiency, increases productivity, diversifies income, and promotes climate resilience.</p> <p>In Kalinga and Ifugao, the RBIFS is not only a means of livelihood but also an important aspect of their cultural heritage and identity. This farming system has been passed down from generation to generation and continues to be adapted and improved to meet the changing needs of the communities. The RBIFS is a model of sustainable agriculture that can provide valuable insights and lessons to other farming communities seeking to adopt sustainable agricultural practices.</p> <p>It promotes the sustainable use of resources, with organic fertilizers, crop rotation, and natural pest control methods, which minimize the use of harmful chemicals and preserve the soil's fertility. Moreover, it also increases productivity. By combining different types of crops, livestock, and fish production, the IRVLFs maximizes the productivity of the land. The livestock and fish production provide additional nutrients, while crop residues provide feed for livestock, improving yields and overall productivity.</p> <p>It also provides a diversified income stream for farmers. They can sell their rice, vegetables, livestock, and fish in the local market or directly to consumers, reducing their dependence on a single crop and increasing their resilience to market fluctuations. Further, it is also an inherently climate-resilient farming system. The crop diversity and integration of livestock and fish production provide a buffer against climate extremes, reducing the risks of crop failure and income loss, hence this proposal. This training was completed by 30 farmers from Ifugao on April 18-20, 2023, at Asipulo, Ifugao.</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Other AF	<p>TECHNICAL BRIEFING ON GOLDEN RICE AND BALANCE FERTILIZATION</p> <p>Golden Rice is a new type of rice that contains beta carotene, a pigment that the body converts into Vitamin A as needed. This compound is what gives this grain its yellow-orange or golden color, hence its name. It is developed through genetic engineering by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute in partnership with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to contain additional levels of beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. This can provide up to 50 percent of the estimated average requirement (EAR) of vitamin A for young children, the age group most susceptible to VAD in the Philippines. The beta-carotene in Golden Rice, which was made possible by the addition of two new enzymes, is identical to the beta-carotene found in green leafy and yellow-colored vegetables, orange-colored fruit, and even in many vitamin supplements and food ingredients. Like ordinary rice, Golden Rice does not require any special cultivation practices and generally has the same yield and agronomic performance.</p> <p>DA-PhilRice has started working with local partners to identify market- and program-based approaches for bringing Golden Rice first to selected communities with a high prevalence of VAD and other associated micronutrient deficiencies. It is also increasing the volume of available seeds and other remaining activities necessary for moving Golden Rice into farmers' fields. Concerning fertilizers, the Philippines is dependent on the importation of inorganic fertilizers since it does not have enough resources to produce the fertilizer that can supply the country. Due to the increase in fertilizer prices, the Department of Agriculture launched the Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS) Program, this pushes for the use of combined organic and inorganic inputs and other forms of strategy to attain the maximum potential of farmlands while promoting balanced fertilization in maintaining soil fertility.</p> <p>The said strategy applies the concept of the 4Rs in fertilization: Right Source, Right Placement, Right Amount, and Right Rate to help enhance soil health and productivity, prevent the decline in soil fertility, and improve fertilizer availability and costs. The BFS Program is seen to enhance the agricultural production landscape with improved soil structure, and the judicious use of fertilizers towards a food-secure and resilient Philippine agricultural industry, with empowered and prosperous farmers and fisherfolk. With the current issue of the rising prices of inorganic fertilizer in the market, BFS is one of the emerging technologies to address this issue. In this context, the Agricultural Training Institute in partnership with DA-PhilRice conducts technical briefings for the update and information to the public that golden rice is safe and ready for cultivation. Also, the technical briefing will address alternative input-fertilizer through balanced fertilization. Throughout the month, 2 batches were conducted. Details were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="685 1088 1490 1198"> <thead> <tr> <th>BATCH</th> <th>DATE</th> <th>NO. OF PAX</th> <th>VENUE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Batch 1</td> <td>May 23</td> <td>22</td> <td>Bauko, Mt. Province</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 2</td> <td>May 25</td> <td>21</td> <td>Mayoyao, Ifugao</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BATCH	DATE	NO. OF PAX	VENUE	Batch 1	May 23	22	Bauko, Mt. Province	Batch 2	May 25	21	Mayoyao, Ifugao
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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Other AF	<p>ONLINE ORIENTATION ON FARM FAMILY PROGRAM FOR RBO COORDINATORS AND FARMING FAMILIES OF CAR</p> <p>In the Philippines, family farming is more than just family-managed activity, but it speaks of multiple dimensions and how a typical Filipino family engages every member of the household in agriculture. Yet, despite the initiatives of the different institutions offering to improve the lives of the people behind the food production in the country, family farmers remain the most vulnerable sector. Mobilizing the key sector to work towards a common goal is proven to be one best strategy to address the underlying causes affecting the multi-dimensional problems face by the farmers themselves. With the growing pressures in our food system, we look to family farming as a model of sustainable food production and as an innovative response to challenges socially, environmentally, economically, and culturally.</p> <p>The farm and the family, food production and life at home, are now at the core of the national priorities as we shape the future of our agriculture sector and, at the same time, help attain sustainable development goals. In December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2019-2028 as the Decade of Family Farming, which would serve as a framework to develop public policies and investments to support family farming and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), including rural poverty eradication in all its forms. Thus, the creation of the Philippine Action Plan for Family Farming (PAP4FF). The 10-year PAP4FF is a product of the series of multi-stakeholder efforts, consultations and engagement with the strong presence and participation of key representatives from NGAs, GOs, CSOs, family farmers organization (FFOs), academic and research institutions. Together, translated these priorities into concrete, coordinated actions.</p> <p>Developed amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, this document is a proof of the enduring commitment and stronger engagement of the different stakeholders, not only in the development of a national action plan, but for the decade-long implementation of the programs and activities to ensure that in the end, no Filipino family farmer is hungry, vulnerable, and dissatisfied. Those who produce food for the entire nation will no longer suffer hunger and poverty.</p> <p>On April 24, an orientation for the coordinators and farming families were undertaken attended by 45 participants. At the end of the activity, it was aimed that the participants will be able to enhanced their knowledge and adopt the concept of the Farming Family.</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON VEGETABLE PRODUCTION EMPLOYING GAP FOR AEWs OF KALINGA BATCH 1, April 18-21, Ayuman Aggani Farm, Bulanao, Tabuk City, Kalinga</p> <p>The Cordillera Administrative Region is predominantly agriculturally based that remains to be the country's biggest producer of semi-temperate vegetables that supplies more than 80% of local market particularly Metro Manila, other urban cities, and regions of Luzon and as far as Visayas (PSA, 2014). Considering all areas planted to vegetables (major, priority and minor crops) in the region, the updated data by the Philippine Statistics Authority Statistics (CY 2015), the Cordillera region has a total agricultural land area of 285,194.61 hectares with about 25,931.57 has. physical area that is devoted to the cultivation of vegetables (Upland and lowland). For the province of Kalinga, out of 86,653.94 hectares total land area, 235 hectares are allotted to vegetable production while 86,418.94 hectares for other commodities such as rice, corn, fruit trees, etc.</p> <p>Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Compliance and Certification is an urgent practice that needs to be understood well by the extension providers specifically the agricultural extension workers, co-implementer, community policy makers and other stakeholders and the farmers in view of the implementation of Asian Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade-World Trade Organization (GATT-WTO) and Food Safety Act of 2013. Both AFTA and GATT-WTO aim to provide equal and wider market opportunities for food products being produced by each member country. However, this market opportunity is not mere removal of import taxes but requires a guaranteed system called Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Compliance Certificate, specifically to declare that fresh food product being sold in the market has undergone a production and processing system that ensures food safety and quality. Being one of the provinces producing vegetables, root crops, herbs, spices and fruits, continues and massive advocacy and information dissemination on the updated vegetable farming technologies, GAP principles and protocols, farm lay-out and landscaping is very much important. There must be continued training and updating of the partner Agricultural extension Workers (AEWs), especially the newly appointed HVCD, GAP and Food Safety Focal Persons in the province.</p> <p>The participants shared their learnings and they said that they were able to know the right combination of vegetables in edible landscaping and that it can be applied to a very small area of production, it also helps with food shortage and environment friendly. Also, they were updated on the status of the Vegetable Industry, GAP importance and purpose to farmers and to consumers. Moreover, they learned that soil sampling will help in the productivity and application of fertilizer to the crops. As their agreements, the participants will conduct a localized orientation on GAP and Food safety and may invite Focal Persons from the province or FPA and RGT GAP Teams. The participants were also encouraged to assist at least 1 client for GAP certification to increase the number of GAP Certified Farms in the country. Re-entry plans will be monitored by the training management team.</p> <p>Three of the participants were encouraged to give their impressions. First is Mr. Edgar Chulana, an OMAG at Aguinaldo, Ifugao and he said that "We are thankful for the TMTs for inviting us as participants in this training. We have learned a lot throughout the 4 days training. Although there are really a lot of challenges to be faced in terms of GAP and Food Safety in our place, we will still do our best to practice what we have learned here for us to teach our farmers." Second is Ms. Lucena B. Agurin, an OPAG from Kalinga, she said that "I would like to thank the facilitators and the RPs of this training and our HVCD Focal Person in our office. Although I am a Rice focal person, I still have learned a lot in this training regarding HVCD Program especially during the discussion of Mental health Awareness. Because we need our mental health to be healthy for us to become more productive in our own jobs in our localities. Lastly, I enjoyed all the topics discussed." Lastly, Mr. Joanatan Nayam-an, an OMAG from Paracelis, Mt. Province said that "I would like to thank my fellow participants for the good company. Even though I am new here in the field of being an AEW, I did not feel any inferiority during the training. I would also like to thank the TMTs for their hard work and dedication in conducting this kind of training. At first, I was not able to talk or discuss these topics regarding FPA but now that I have learned about these, I am now confident to share it with our fellow farmers in our own municipality."</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>CAPABILITY BUILDING IN SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY GARDEN ESTABLISHMENT ON URBAN AGRICULTURE WITH PROVISION OF STARTER KITS</p> <p>This month, eight batches of training in support to community garden establishment on urban agriculture was conducted. Details were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1303 505 1831 841"> <thead> <tr> <th>Batch</th> <th>Number of pax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>6</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>200</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Learnings shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learnings I acquired in this topic are the importance of organic fertilizer in crop production and to how to identify that land is acidic and many more. • I am encouraged to have backyard garden and wants to apply these learnings in business • I have learned about planting tomatoes. It also gives me clarity on the uses of organic fertilizer and also, I learned about the different types of insects and how to prevent them. • I have leaned on how to care a plant and how to apply different organic fertilizer. • I learned the proper procedures of planting organic tomato production. In addition, this guideline we learned would give us knowledge and strategies to make farmers to work properly. • I learned the proper way to use seedling tray. In addition, I learned how to identify the maturity indices of crops. • This training gives awareness about common pest and how to control them using organic insecticides. • I learned that farm sanitation is one way to produce food that is healthy. • I learned the proper watering of tomato to avoid wilting. • The importance of organic fertilizer. 	Batch	Number of pax	6	25	7	25	8	25	9	25	10	25	11	25	12	25	13	25	Total	200
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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>BASIC MEAT INSPECTION TRAINING COURSE, March 13- April 4</p> <p>The health of the animal is of importance for there are many animal diseases which may be transmitted to man by contact with the animals or with the meat or other products. About 90 diseases and parasites of animals can be transmitted to humans by consumption of improperly cooked meat. Among these includes anthrax, foot-and-mouth disease, swine erysipelas, Brucellosis, tularemia, and tuberculosis. Certain parasitic diseases, such as trichinosis, may also be transmitted through the consumption of raw or insufficiently cooked meat. In meat hygiene, we are interested in the sanitation of the meat plant, not only from the aesthetic standpoint, but also from the point of view that even good meat may be contaminated by careless handling after dressing. Meat is an excellent food not only for mankind, but also for a host of bacteria, many of which fortunately are harmless, but occasionally a pathogen gets in which may cause a good cause of food poisoning.</p> <p>The Basic Meat Inspection Course (BMIC) is a capability building activity designed for Local Government Unit Meat Inspectors, Meat Control Officers and other personnel performing meat inspection work. It is basically an upgrading of skills of people involved in meat inspection in ensuring that meat prepared for human consumption is safe and has undergone the required inspection. The main purpose of meat inspection is to prevent and detect public health hazards such as foodborne pathogens or chemical contaminants in meat. Meat inspection also plays an integral part in the overall monitoring system of certain animal diseases and the verification of compliance with animal welfare standards. This is an important control point for the early identification of problems that may impact on public health as well as on animal health and welfare.</p> <p>As an agreement and learning on the said training they stated that being a Meat Inspector needs determination and is equipped with all the knowledge necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities. One must also be aware of the laws and issuances on meat inspection. Furthermore, there are certain steps that a Meat Inspector must conduct to ensure the safety of meat until it reaches the consumers such as ante and post-mortem inspection, post meat establishment control, and ensuring hygienic handling of meat from slaughterhouse to market including transport.</p> <p>Three of the participants have expressed their impressions. First is Mr. George Edward Botengan, an Admin Aide I at MLGU-Bontoc, Mt. Province wherein He said that "I'm thankful that I was included in this training. I really learned a lot. In the case of Mt. Province, only Tadian has a registered slaughterhouse. Bontoc is the center of Mt. Province. It is important to have a slaughterhouse in the municipality and hopefully, the budget will be approved by 2025. We also don't have a plantilla position for meat inspector to monitor the markets. I hope I can share the knowledge I gained so that we can have safe meat for all. That's all, thank you!". Second, Mr. Niño Venie Mar R. Cuarteros a Meat Inspector at CLGU-Tabuk City, Kalinga He said that "First of all, our deepest gratitude to ATI-CAR and NMIS-CAR for this wonderful opportunity. Kalinga already has a "AA" slaughterhouse, but it is not operational because there is still no wastewater treatment. Hopefully, in the second quarter of this year will be already operational. Thank you NMIS for helping us in constructing the slaughterhouse. Thank you!". Lastly, Mr. Romel Letac, Jr. an Agricultural Technologist at MLGU-Alfonso Lista, Ifugao, said that "For me, I really appreciate our bonding considering that we came from different municipalities of Cordillera. With this connection, we can contact each other on issues regarding animal diseases and other concerns. We will apply the learnings from this training in our work. Example is on how to approach concerned people in conducting enforcement. We thank the NMIS for teaching us well. That's all and congratulations to all of us. See you on the next trainings".</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>PIG FARMING AS AN ENTERPRISE BATCH 1, April 25-27, 2023</p> <p>Farmers nowadays should become farmer-entrepreneurs, who see their farms as a business. They see their farms as a means of earning profits. They should be passionate enough about their farm business and are willing to take calculated risks to make their farms profitable and their businesses grow. There are two parts to entrepreneurship. The first is the managerial skills needed to start and run a profitable farm business. The second is 'entrepreneurial spirit'. Both are important. Managerial skills can be taught, but an entrepreneurial spirit cannot be taught. Many farmers are already excellent managers and many also have some of the spirit of an entrepreneur. As 'price takers' many farmers have developed outstanding abilities to make the most of their resources. But being 'price takers' suggests that these farmers are not innovative, do not take risks, and lack the drive that is usually associated with an entrepreneurial spirit (2012, FAO).</p> <p>The course is designed to enhance the entrepreneurial competencies/skills of the recipients of the INSPIRE Projects given by the DA-RFO-CAR for farmer associations in the Cordillera Administrative Region in the development and improvement of pig enterprises. The program aims to hasten the repopulation program of the Department of Agriculture on swine that was greatly devastated by the ASF. In addition, now that the farms were established, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI-CAR) believes that enterprise development programs are one effective support mechanism to improve productivity and sustainability of the program. The 3-day course focused on the discovery and rediscover of the participants' entrepreneurial potential, creativity, values orientation, strategy development, project identification and pre-business plan awareness.</p> <p>The participants shared their learnings wherein they said that personal entrepreneurial competency is a set of skills and behavior needed to create, develop, manage, and grow a business venture. Moreover, to achieve, an entrepreneur seeks and seizes opportunity, is persistent, committed to work contract, efficiency oriented and demands quality and calculates risks. While planning, an entrepreneur sets his goal, systematic in planning and monitoring and seeks information. Entrepreneurs must also be persuasive and self-confident to grow their business.</p> <p>Selected participants also shared their impressions. First Ms. Jane-ai B. Lomas-e manager of Kalinga Rice Terraces Farmers Agricultural Cooperative said that "Good afternoon to all of us. We thank everyone for our participation as we expected during the first day. We are all united even when there are times when we must compete. Let us help each other and let this be our network. Thank you so much and nice knowing you all. Thank you also to our facilitators who are very accommodating. I hope this will not be the first and last time that we meet each other. Thank you also to DA for this opportunity and for helping elevate the lives of farmers. To our resource speaker, thank you so much for the wisdom you imparted. We owe that to you and more power. I was amazed by the new learnings I garnered. Thank you to Sir Charlie for welcoming us. We enjoyed our stay here at ATI. Thank you so much!". Secondly, Mr. John Jeb C. Constancio a manager of Canaan Organic Farmers Agriculture Cooperative said that "We thank the Department of Agriculture for choosing us as participants for this training. We also thank our resource speaker for the wisdom and truly we will be able to help our constituents if we go back to our coop. Lessons from this training are well acknowledged. I was observing the record keeping presented earlier, and it seems that it is more detailed than in the hospital. But then, these are important because it is a big responsibility. We thank you for the wisdom and knowledge that equipped us to face this project. Nice meeting you all!". Lastly, Mr. David B. Andres a chairman of Taloy Organic Agriculture Practitioners Association said that "I am thankful to our speaker. This is the only training I attended where I didn't feel sleepy throughout the training. I was so impressed, and my spirit was elevated from the wisdom. I am grateful to my team for the effort. Thank you also to the staff of ATI because I was motivated in the process of conducting a program. I know that our expectations were surpassed. I am also grateful to the food caterer for responding to our requests. To my co-participants, thank you also for the relationship we created. This is not the last, but it is just the beginning of our partnership. Thank you very much!"</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>			
Modelling Technologies, Best Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Practices and Innovations (Exhibit)	Field Validation	FIELD VALIDATION OF LSA APPLICANTS			
		ERIC TINOYAN	CHRISTOPHER ALOS	DARIO MONTES	ANA LYN AMANDO
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - proprietor of V. Tinoyan's Farm and Marketing located at Camp 1, Tuba, Benguet - 1.1 hectares planted with various fruit trees, seedling production areas, and integrated with organic pigs and poultry - has already a well-established farm and is willing to become an LSA for 5 years - ATI staff advised Mr. Tinoyan to apply for GAP certification and to conduct 5S in his farm - He was then oriented as to what is learning site, the functions and obligations, LSA documents, and most of all reports to be submitted, using the LSA briefer. - advised to submit lacking documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owned a total farm area of more or less 1,000 sq.m. at Camp 7, Tuba, Benguet - He plans to establish an apple and pear orchard - ATI staff suggested to Mr. Alos to improve the landscape of the area, add more plants including other fruit trees and ornamentals - He was also advised to conduct 5S in his farm - As per validation, the farm is not yet ready to become learning site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - owner of Darjane's Agro-Recreational Farm at Tebteb, Shilan, La Trinidad, Benguet - The farm started in the year 2020 during the pandemic and has an area of 2,000 sq.m. with 6 greenhouses and a plan for expansion of another 2,000 sq.m. for the plantation of open field sunflowers. -The farm has cut flowers and ornamentals, various seedlings for neighboring farms and production of highland vegetables and herbs, and rearing wild bees - Soon be engaging in food processing and planning to create their own brand name of herbal coffee and tea products - The farm is practicing GAP farming and waiting for GAP certificate - He was then oriented as to what is learning site, the functions and obligations, LSA documents, and most of all reports to be submitted, using the LSA briefer. - advised to submit lacking documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - manage the Amando's Citrus Farm, a family-owned enterprise at Amcaway, Ambassador, Tublay, Benguet - Total land area of 2 hectares planted mainly with lemon, few oranges and passion fruits - They are practicing GAP and fertilizing the citrus trees with chicken dung once a year - Lemon picking is one of their best attractions and specialized in processing lemon food products - The team recommended them to apply for GAP certification, RSBSA and since they are on processing, it would also be better to register for BFAD licensing for safety reasons. - advised to submit lacking documents



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Modelling Technologies, Best Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Practices and Innovations (Exhibit)	Field Validation	<p>FIELD VALIDATION OF CUAMF APPLICANTS</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="717 427 2377 802"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="717 427 1547 459">ROXAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL</th> <th data-bbox="1547 427 2377 459">JOAQUIN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="717 459 1547 802"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has existing gardens being managed by the 4H Club Coordinator and supported by the School Principal - Harvested crops from their existing garden were given to students as a reward for their efforts and feeding programs were also held every Friday. - Seedling were given to students for them to plant in their home (monitored by teacher) - They were asked to prepare proposals for the enhancement of their garden in school, and will be assisted by Engr. Marceline Tabilin of City Veterinary Office -The team oriented them the urban gardening partnership program, what are the rules and functions </td> <td data-bbox="1547 459 2377 802"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of the pilot partners of CVAO and ATI in the ongoing Baguio Urban Gardening Program being implemented this year. - To validate the site to be installed with seedling nursery and vegetable production - The 1,000 m² garden is being planted by the 4H Club member students with beans and other vegetables -As per validation, there is a need to fix the fences and drainage to avoid flooding during the rainy season - Reminded the 4H Coordinator and Principal of their proposal for the nursery greenhouse </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In Kalinga</p> <p><i>Field Validation of CUAMF Applicant:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 Canaan Organic Farmers Agricultural Cooperative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nambaran, Tabuk City, Kalinga - newly operated and owned by an organization - applied for Learning Site for organic production and livestock raising - asked to submit certification or registration at either SEC/DOLE/CDA 	ROXAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	JOAQUIN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has existing gardens being managed by the 4H Club Coordinator and supported by the School Principal - Harvested crops from their existing garden were given to students as a reward for their efforts and feeding programs were also held every Friday. - Seedling were given to students for them to plant in their home (monitored by teacher) - They were asked to prepare proposals for the enhancement of their garden in school, and will be assisted by Engr. Marceline Tabilin of City Veterinary Office -The team oriented them the urban gardening partnership program, what are the rules and functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of the pilot partners of CVAO and ATI in the ongoing Baguio Urban Gardening Program being implemented this year. - To validate the site to be installed with seedling nursery and vegetable production - The 1,000 m² garden is being planted by the 4H Club member students with beans and other vegetables -As per validation, there is a need to fix the fences and drainage to avoid flooding during the rainy season - Reminded the 4H Coordinator and Principal of their proposal for the nursery greenhouse
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Modelling Technologies, Best Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Practices and Innovations (Exhibit)	Field Validation	LSA validation is one of the initial activities towards certification. The results of the validation will spell the qualifications of the applicants. LSA Validation in Kibungan, Benguet.									
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="682 474 750 542">No.</th> <th data-bbox="750 474 1049 542">Name and Address of Farmer</th> <th data-bbox="1049 474 1908 542">Findings</th> <th data-bbox="1908 474 2362 542">Remarks/Recommendations</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="682 542 750 1214">1</td> <td data-bbox="750 542 1049 1214"> JASON T. NABE Nabe Organic Farm Sagpat Proper, Sagpat, Kibungan, Benguet </td> <td data-bbox="1049 542 1908 1214"> The farm is privately owned. It is an integrated and diversified specialized in natural-based farming. She is an active member of Our Farmers Haven, an OCCP certified organization. Mr. Jason Nabe is a farmer in Sagpat, Kibungan who is promoting organic farming in the municipality. He has been attending trainings related to organic farming. He is very willing to share his technologies to younger generations and to other clients. He is willing to take responsibility for becoming a learning site. The farm has the following facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 green houses for organic vegetable production - on-going construction of 1 green house for nursery. - 300 heads of rabbit - Irrigation facility - Composting facility - Wash area - Holding area - Comfort rooms </td> <td data-bbox="1908 542 2362 1214"> Recommended for CERTIFICATION </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.	Name and Address of Farmer	Findings	Remarks/Recommendations	1	JASON T. NABE Nabe Organic Farm Sagpat Proper, Sagpat, Kibungan, Benguet	The farm is privately owned. It is an integrated and diversified specialized in natural-based farming. She is an active member of Our Farmers Haven, an OCCP certified organization. Mr. Jason Nabe is a farmer in Sagpat, Kibungan who is promoting organic farming in the municipality. He has been attending trainings related to organic farming. He is very willing to share his technologies to younger generations and to other clients. He is willing to take responsibility for becoming a learning site. The farm has the following facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 green houses for organic vegetable production - on-going construction of 1 green house for nursery. - 300 heads of rabbit - Irrigation facility - Composting facility - Wash area - Holding area - Comfort rooms 	Recommended for CERTIFICATION	
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Expanding Partnerships Along the Value Chain Through Advisory Services (Advise)		<i>No advisory services provided for this month</i>									



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Enhancing Agriculture Fisheries Extension Knowledge Products and Services (Disseminate)	Documentation	<p>DOCUMENTATION OF LSA ANAEM TECHNOLOGY AND RCEF EXEMPLARY BENEFICIARY April 11-14, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 <i>LSA ANAEM – Tuba, Benguet</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Video documentation of the ANAEM feed formulation ○ Interviewed Mr. Gerald Meana on his farming practices and LSA journey 📍 <i>Bacayan’s Farm - Tabuk, Kalinga</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interviewed Mr. Michael and Ms. Angie Lumas-i on their LSA journey and farming practices. ○ Documentation of farming activities 📍 <i>Apita’s Farm</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivered the vermi-compost for the conduct of NUPAP. 📍 <i>Proposed FITS Center – Lubuagan, Kalinga</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The visit aimed to assess the proposed FITS Center ○ The area may host a FITS corner, not necessarily that the whole room be allotted for the FITS. <p>The Office needs to be re-arranged to accommodate more bookshelves, chairs, and tables for the farmers.</p>
Enhancing Agriculture Fisheries Extension Knowledge Products and Services (Disseminate)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintained/Updated the Center’s website and social media accounts <i>(1 website, 1 FB page, 1 FB Profile, 1 Youtube Channel)</i>. ✓ DA-ATI-RTC-CAR intensified its online promotions with 35 posts in social media. With the said uploads, there were 75,090 individuals reached. ✓ Throughout the month, a total of 1,451 print materials disseminated. ✓ Accomplished the ATI-RTC-CAR Annual Report. ✓ 2 Success stories documented ✓ 1 Success story published



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	YFFLTPJ SEND-OFF CEREMONY	<p>ATTEND THE YFFLTPJ SEND-OFF CEREMONY AT ATI-CO, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY</p> <p>The Young Filipino Farmer Leaders Training Program in Japan (YFFLTPJ), the internship program is a collaboration between the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and the Japan Agricultural Exchange Council (JAEC). YFFLTPJ aims to provide opportunities for deserving young Filipino farmers nationwide to gain knowledge and skills on the advanced Japanese modern agricultural technologies, and to become empowered farmer leaders and agricultural entrepreneurs who can help achieve food security and economic stability in the agriculture sector.</p> <p>For this year's batch, a total of 23 young farmers have been selected from the different regions in the country to undergo a series of hands-on training composed of various courses such as: rice production and farm mechanization training, dairy/beef cattle production and management, vegetable/crop production, and swine production and management. To prepare for the actual training in Japan, the trainees underwent a Pre-departure Orientation Course (PDOC) where they took Agricultural Credit Policy Council's Financial Literacy course and Japanese Language, Culture and Traditions Class, which was facilitated by the Sai Jou International Training Center.</p> <p>As a culmination activity of the PDOC, a send-off ceremony was held last April 11, 2023 at the ATI-Central Office to recognize the trainees for completing the various phases of the program. This activity also acknowledged the contribution of the different partners in the implementation of the program such as the JAEC, ATI Regional Training Centers, provincial and municipal local government units and more importantly, the parents of the young farmers. As response, the 23 trainees pledged and committed to do their best and to show their sponsors that they are worthy of becoming an intern of this program.</p> <p>The awarding of Certificates of Completion for PDOC was awarded to the 23 trainees, and a Special Award for Ms. Aimee Basilio from CAR as the highest/best in Nihongo Language. Also, the team of Mr. Julius Bangibang from CAR was awarded as the Best Team.</p> <p>Through a video message, DA's Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban extended his support to the trainees in transforming them into farm leaders and agricultural entrepreneurs through continued capability building. He also wished the trainees' success in their learning journey and challenged them to return to the Philippines after their 11-month internship in Japan with valuable knowledge, and skills that will benefit the agriculture sector and create more opportunities for the stakeholders in the face of today's modernization and digitalization agenda.</p> <p>Attended by Ms. Veronica Siloy, ATI-RTC-CAR RBO Focal.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PGS Orientation	<p>PGS ORIENTATION FOR LAGAWA ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FARMERS ASSOCIATION (LOAFA), BAUKO, MT. PROVINCE, April 12-13, 2023, Otucan and Guinsadan, Bauko Mt. Province</p> <p>On April 12 & 13, 2023, a two-day seminar on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) was conducted at barangay Lagawa, Bauko, Mt. Province. The activity was sponsored jointly by Lagawa Organic Agriculture Farmers Association (LOAFA) and LGU-Bauko, Mt. Province. The seminar was attended by a total of 39 participants composed of LOAFA members, LGU-Bauko staff, LSA owner and PCIC staff. During the opening program, Ms. Agrifina Malecдан, Municipal OA Coordinator, gave a brief background of the association and overview of the activity stating the goal/purpose and objective of the seminar.</p> <p>To meet the goals and objectives of the seminar Mr. Edwin C. Dicksen, ATI-RTC-CAR's OA Focal Person, discussed the following modules/topics on PGS to the participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salient Provisions and IRR of the amended Organic Agriculture Act on PGS – Purpose of the amended Organic Agriculture Act (RA 11511), Roles of NOAB and NOAP on Organic Agriculture in the Philippines, Scope & Coverage of PGS, 9 Features & Characteristics of PGS, PGS Composition, PGS Legal Personality and Duties and Responsibilities of Core PGS Group among others, ○ Overview of the Organic Agriculture Regulations – BAFS Functions as RA 11511, DA/BAFS Regulatory Framework and Functions, Organic Certification (Third Party & PGS), Certification of Core PGS Group, Accreditation of Organic Certifying Body (OCB), Registration of Organic Producers, Produce, Inputs and Processed Organic Products, and Monitoring of Certified/Guaranteed Organic Producers, Produce and Products among others. ○ Operation of Participatory Guarantee System Groups as Organic Certifying Body – Legal Basis, Key Elements, Features and Characteristics of PGS Group as OCB, Applicable Current PNS for Organic Agriculture, Defined and Transparent Management System Structure and Procedures, Certification Activities, Procedure Requirements and Records Management among others. <p>Moreover, to respond to the PGS requirements or compliances needed for Certification and Accreditation, Mr. Dicksen delivered the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tips on Manual of Operation and Internal Standards Preparation ○ Water Filtration System ○ Farm Records Keeping ○ Organic Vegetable and Livestock Production (Organic Feed Formulation) ○ Composting & Concoctions' Preparations <p>Ms. Agrifina Malesdan in her closing remarks advised the participants to apply and access the information/learnings gained to expand their knowledge and for the farmers to produce their own safe vegetables, fruits and other products. Also, she reiterated that the participants should inform others farmers about the benefits of organic farming and the advantage of being certified. She also expressed the willingness of LGU-Bauko along with other agencies to help in the development of Lagawa as an organic barangay.</p>




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		<p>The participants expressed their thanks and gratitude to ATI by singing an indigenous song. Likewise, some participants expressed their positive impressions about the conduct of the activity, the learnings and technologies they gained from the topics discussed, the speaker and facilitators among others. Also, as an expression of thanks and gratitude to the resource person the participants gave muscovado sugar and assorted organic vegetables.</p>															
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	MAFF PROJECT	<p>DELIVERY OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS TO BE USED BY THE 3 FCAS IN THE 2ND POTATO PRODUCTION CYCLE UNDER THE CBF MAFF PROJECT</p> <p>Following the completion of the first cycle of potato production under the CBF MAFF Project, the second production cycle is set to start. It will be carried out by three members of the FCAs namely: Ms. Lilian Tabao-ikan of Raniag Farmers Association; Mr. Basilio Ngaseo Jr. of Manpat-a Farmers Association; and Mr. Eddie Buyagan of Blestdam Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc.</p> <p>The plan is to plant potatoes this April 2023 and expected harvest in August 2023. In support to production, delivery of various farm supplies to the three FCAs was successfully done (fertilizers, potato planting materials, pesticides, PPEs, fuel, and motor oil). Moreover, a farm visit was also done to the production areas of the cooperators for this cycle. Findings where the farm are already cultivated and ready for planting. Potato tuber samples were also gathered from the first cycle of production to be sent to BPI-SPAL Baguio for Pesticide Residue Analysis.</p> <p>Mr. Romualdo S. Bantag, ATI-RTC-CAR Admin Assistant, led the delivery of agricultural inputs to the three FCAs on April 14, 2023.</p> <p>MONITORING</p> <p>A monitoring of the 2nd cycle of potato production was undertaken on April 25-27, 2023. Findings:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="685 1117 2404 1334"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="685 1117 1258 1156">Treatment 1</th> <th data-bbox="1258 1117 1831 1156">Treatment 2</th> <th data-bbox="1831 1117 2404 1156">Treatment 3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="685 1156 1258 1226">Tubers have dark skin</td> <td data-bbox="1258 1156 1831 1226">The color of the skin has no changes from the time of the treatment</td> <td data-bbox="1831 1156 2404 1226">The color of the skin has no changes from the time of the treatment</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="685 1226 1258 1265">Have a wrinkly appearance</td> <td data-bbox="1258 1226 1831 1265">Firm tubers</td> <td data-bbox="1831 1226 2404 1265">Firm tubers</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="685 1265 1258 1304">Tubers were soft and rotting</td> <td data-bbox="1258 1265 1831 1304">No signs of rotting</td> <td data-bbox="1831 1265 2404 1304">No signs of rotting</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="685 1304 1258 1334">Have longer sprouts than the two treatments</td> <td data-bbox="1258 1304 1831 1334">Had just started sprouting</td> <td data-bbox="1831 1304 2404 1334">Had just started sprouting</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	Treatment 3	Tubers have dark skin	The color of the skin has no changes from the time of the treatment	The color of the skin has no changes from the time of the treatment	Have a wrinkly appearance	Firm tubers	Firm tubers	Tubers were soft and rotting	No signs of rotting	No signs of rotting	Have longer sprouts than the two treatments	Had just started sprouting	Had just started sprouting
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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	INDUCTION ACTIVITY	<p>INDUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS AND TURN-OVER CEREMONY OF GRANJEROS DE OESTE ORGANIZACION (GOO) INCORPORATED GRANJEROS DE OESTE ORGANIZACION (GOO) INCORPORATED COMMUNITY URBAN AGRICULTURE MODEL FARM (CUAMF)</p> <p><i>“Leadership is not about position, it’s all about the spirit of making things better. We must use our power for change. Officers you have given a power, apply that power for the betterment of your organization”</i> Hon. Isabelo Cosalan quoted during his inspirational speech.</p> <p>Hon. Isabelo B. Cosalan inducted the newly elected officers and after the induction Ms. Rocklyn Yadis turned-over the organization’s important documents to Ms. Elizabeth Tiru, the newly elected President. Ms. Tiru accepted the responsibilities as the organization president.</p> <p>After the induction and turn-over, an amount of Php 100,000 is awarded to Granjeros de Oeste Organizacion (GOO) Incorporated Granjeros de Oeste Organizacion (GOO) Incorporated for the enhancement of their Community Urban Agriculture Model Farm (CUAMF). This assistance will be used for the procurement of stocks for poultry production.</p> <p>The activity was attended by Ms. Perla Epie, Development Management Officer I, Ms. Veronica Siloy, RBO Focal, and Mr. Faustino Alboc, Farm Worker on April 18, 2023, at Granjeros de Oeste Organizacion (GOO) Incorporated CUAMF, Purok 2, Irisan, Baguio City.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Benchmarking Activity	<p>BENCHMARKING AND SITE VALIDATION OF PROPOSED SITE FOR SWINE MULTIPLIER FARM</p> <p>On April 17-19, 2023, the validation was conducted by Mr. Windel Baaten, in pursuant to the implementation of the Department of Agriculture’s Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) Program as a repopulation effort to mitigate the devastating effect of the African Swine Fever ASF to the country’s swine industry. The ATI-RTC-CAR was allotted a total amount of Php 10,000,000 for the establishment of a bio-secured Swine Multiplier Farm in the region, to be implemented this CY 2023. MLGU of Luna, Apayao is the identified beneficiary of the INSPIRE Program.</p> <p>Agreements and MLGU commitments during the proposed site validation are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MLGU Luna, Apayao committed to providing the proposed site with electricity and water supply before the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between ATI-RTC-CAR and MLGU Luna, Apayao. ➤ Mr. Julius G. Casil, Municipal Agriculturist and Mr. RJ Herrera, MA Staff will talk to the Municipal Mayor to allot an initial amount to cover the cost of site clearing and levelling of the proposed project site so that it will not be included on the cost estimate of the Program. <p>MLGU will prepare POW/DED and estimates to be reviewed and approved by ATI-RTC-CAR before procurement and implementation.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>						
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Field Monitoring	<p>FIELD MONITORING ON THE STATUS OF LSA in BENGUET</p> <p> GARDEN NEN INEZ</p> <p>Newly established learning site for ornamentals planted with different varieties of anthuriums, orchids, succulents and many more kinds of ornamentals. Owned by both retired horticulturist Mr. Fernando Gonzales and Mrs. Ines Gonzales. The Center provided ₱150,000 funds last year for the replacement of anthurium black nets, net poles and for installation of railings or barriers and were able to save an amount from the funds to improved and expand their parking space for visitors.</p> <p>The farm maintains farm sanitation. Other improvements include a newly constructed building that can capacitate 40 persons, lodging rooms, catering services, playground for children, and expanded anthurium area. The farm had been accommodating OJT students from Benguet State University, Tublay School of Home Industries, and other schools. As for the tourism part, they had been accommodating guests where the rooms are full during Panagbenga, Strawberry Festival, and Holy Week. After field monitoring, the owner was reminded of its responsibilities stipulated in the guidelines. Recommendations were also discussed by the team for the improvement of the farm.</p>						
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Field Monitoring	<p>FIELD MONITORING ON THE STATUS OF LSAs in KALINGA</p> <p>On April 18-21, 2023, Ms. Cristine Esnara, Senior Agriculturist with Mr. Windel Baaten and Carevem Bayawa travelled to Kalinga to conduct training of trainers for AEWs in Kalinga. To maximize the travel, the team conducted field monitoring of LSAs and validation activities for applicants. The result was as follows:</p> <p><i>Field Monitoring of LSA:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="685 1047 2427 1299"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="685 1047 1283 1079">Daguitan Kan Tangkib</th> <th data-bbox="1283 1047 1881 1079">SHAVCERs Farm</th> <th data-bbox="1881 1047 2427 1079">Ayuman Aggani Farm</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="685 1079 1283 1299"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owned and managed by Mr. Albert Pullan - Certified LSA last 2022 specializing in coffee - They had applied the previous recommendations - The owner was reminded about the LSA functions </td> <td data-bbox="1283 1079 1881 1299"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owned and managed by Ms. Virginia Sacki - The farm was certified as fruit and vegetable-based learning site and later registered as RCEF LSA - The owner was reminded about the LSA functions </td> <td data-bbox="1881 1079 2427 1299"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owned and managed by Mr. Camilo Lammawin - The farm was certified as integrated farm with pou sheep, pig, and crops (mango, pineapples, vegetable) - Training facilities can accommodate 40 people - The owner was reminded about the LSA functions </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Mansaja-aw Farm owned by Ms. Rachell Maling was not monitored because she was on travel. For EJ Farm owned by Mr. Eleazar Tinio was not monitored since he informed the monitoring team that the project was not yet finished.</p>	Daguitan Kan Tangkib	SHAVCERs Farm	Ayuman Aggani Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owned and managed by Mr. Albert Pullan - Certified LSA last 2022 specializing in coffee - They had applied the previous recommendations - The owner was reminded about the LSA functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owned and managed by Ms. Virginia Sacki - The farm was certified as fruit and vegetable-based learning site and later registered as RCEF LSA - The owner was reminded about the LSA functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owned and managed by Mr. Camilo Lammawin - The farm was certified as integrated farm with pou sheep, pig, and crops (mango, pineapples, vegetable) - Training facilities can accommodate 40 people - The owner was reminded about the LSA functions
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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Phone Call Monitoring	<p> PHONE CALL MONITORING OF RE-ENTRY PLAN DURING THE CONDUCT OF CAPABILITY BUILDING ON MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS' (LGUS) AFE STAKEHOLDERS FY 2022-2028, April 25-27, 2023 </p> <p> The Center conducted the Capability Building on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for Local Government Units' (LGUs) AFE Stakeholders FY 2022-2028 last year. It aimed to improve governance and accountability and transparency among LGU through proper monitoring and evaluation of its programs, projects, and activities. This will also help LGUs to have better knowledge and understanding of how interventions work and help come up with better-informed and evidence-based decisions towards continuous organizational improvement and reforms. </p> <p> Six (6) months after the conduct of the activity, ATI-RTC-CAR, thru the PMEUE conducted the monitoring of the re-entry plan. </p> <p> Figure 1 shows the status of the monitoring of re-entry plan. It implies that out of 19 re-entry plans, 58% were not yet implemented. The majority of them have been preoccupied with the ongoing activities, some have not yet determined their indicators, and others. On the other hand, 3 LGUs have partially accomplished the re-entry plan, while 5 LGUs have fully accomplished it. Some say they were short-staffed, so they were having difficulty in gathering data. Some claim that their lack of personnel made it difficult for them to obtain data. Others claim that they still need to consolidate and correct their records. With these findings, the PMEUE shall conduct another round of phone call monitoring with the trained participants. </p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Figure 1. STATUS OF MONITORING</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <caption>Data for Figure 1: STATUS OF MONITORING</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Status</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Not Accomplished</td> <td>11</td> <td>58%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partially Accomplished</td> <td>5</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accomplished</td> <td>3</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Status	Count	Percentage	Not Accomplished	11	58%	Partially Accomplished	5	26%	Accomplished	3	16%
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PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	INDCCR (Trainings Attended)	<p>SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT COURSE TRACK 1</p> <p>Initiated by the Civil Service Commission - Cordillera Administrative Region (CSC-CAR), the four-day Supervisory Development Course Track 1 webinar was completed by 171 participants across the nation from April 11–14, 2023. "This is a clear indication of your commitment to investing in the professional development of your workforce, and we believe that this will help each of you [emerging supervisors] navigate through the challenges of the new normal, at the same time, to achieve your mission, vision and goals as an organization," CSC-CAR Regional Director Nerissa Canguilan said during the opening of the training.</p> <p>The 32-hour webinar engaged the participants in various interactive virtual exercises that equipped them with the essential leadership and managerial skills in this introductory segment of the three-track supervisory development course as part of CSC's Learning and Development initiative for emerging supervisors.</p> <p>Participated by Mr Randy T. Soriano, Ms. Khareen B. Tigui-ing, and Ms. Brandy L. Banda-ay.</p>
		<p>LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR DA-ATI MIDDLE MANAGERS</p> <p>On April 11-21, 2023, Mr. Charlie C. Sagudan, ATI-RTC-CAR Director attended the Leadership and Management Development Program that was conducted through blended learning modalities held at Asian Institute of Management, Makati City.</p> <p>Relevance of the training as perceived by TCD:</p> <p>The topics discussed on this activity were relevant in the discharge of functions in the office. More so with challenges experienced in the conduct of interventions across the banner programs of the Department of Agriculture.</p>
		<p>CAPABILITY BUILDING ON WRITING PURPOSEIVE TRAINING AND ACTIVITY DESIGNS</p> <p>Agricultural Training Institute - Central Office conducted a training course that aims to increase and enhance the knowledge and skills of the ATI staff in the preparation of Training and Activity Designs. The training covered five modules: (1) Introduction to Training and Activity Designing; (2) Parts of the Training and Activity Designs; (3) Developing Objectives; (4) Training Methodologies; and (5) Introduction to Training Evaluation. It was completed by 28 staff from different Regional Training Centers and staff from Central office on April 18-20, 2023, at Mess Hall, ATI-CO, Diliman, Quezon City.</p> <p>Attended by Aida C. Gama and Tiffanie Grace Beñgeg, ATI-RTC-CAR Admin Assistants.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	INDCCR (Trainings Attended)	<p>CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR F2C2 STAFF, RTWG AND AEWs FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE FARM CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN</p> <p>Mr. Jerry Banawa, Corn Program Focal Person, emphasized in his opening message the need to harmonize the F2C2 and PAFES interventions to avoid duplications.</p> <p><i>Issues/Concerns/Agreements during the Forum:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clustering livestock producers is very hard compared to crops ○ FCDP should be integrated. It should not only cover the focus commodity but the allied commodities/production as well ○ There is no multi-commodity cluster but other allied commodities they are into should be mentioned in their profile ○ Cluster organization will consolidate the product of single clusters regardless of distance ○ How can you cluster areas that are not adjacent? The benefit of economies scales might be offset by the cost of consolidating products dur to distance which require additional marketing cost ○ Clustering should facilitate provision of services and take advantage of presence of cooperatives ○ In the assessment of the organizations, is there a passing rate? If there are, what if they met the passing rate but did not meet criteria no. 1 which is only 5% of the total criteria and yet the most important? ○ If criteria no. 1 requires 75% of the members should be RSBSA registered, will the 25% who are not registered be entitled to the benefits given to those RSBSA registered once the FCA meets the criteria? ○ Since registration of the clusters is not a must, MOA should be executed among the cluster officers indicating the terms of references in the operation of the clusters <p>What is the production area referred here, is it the effective area production or the physical area?</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PSABE 2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION	<p>ATTENDANCE TO PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEER (PSABE) 2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION, April 24-28, 2023, MOA Convention Center</p> <p>Senator Imee Marcos delivered an inspiring message during the opening ceremony of the PSABE National Convention 2023, highlighting the critical role of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers in advancing agriculture and fishery mechanization in the country. In her speech, she emphasized the importance of the RA 10915 in accelerating agricultural modernization and called for the strengthening of PSABEs to deliver top-notch services to farmers and fisherfolks, enabling them to compete in today's dynamic market. She also stressed that innovation, rather than importation, is the key to unlocking the full potential of the agriculture industry in our country. Senator Marcos' message was a reminder of the crucial role of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers in the country's progress towards sustainable development.</p> <p>Assistant Secretary De Mesa of the Department of Agriculture challenged the PSABEs to not only become the norm of employment but also to strive to become innovators. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of moving away from traditional practices, such as the "cut and weld" approach, and instead encouraged the</p>



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		<p>ABE community to embrace innovation in their work. Additionally, he reiterated that the approval and provision of Joint Memo Circular 2 series of 2020 between DILG, DA Civil Service would serve to strengthen the capacity of young ABEs at the local level. This is because the creation of ABE positions at the LGU level is now mandatory, thereby enabling them to be more effective in promoting agricultural and biosystems engineering at the grassroots level.</p> <p>After the opening program, there were series of plenary sessions and technical paper presentations.</p> <p>Attended by Engr. Randy Soriano.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	ACT AS RP	<p>ACT AS RESOURCE PERSON ON PERFORM NURSERY OPERATION AT MANUEL L. QUEZON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (MLQES), BAGUIO CITY</p> <p>In line with the Memorandum of Agreement signed between the City Government of Baguio, Manuel L. Quezon Elementary School (MLQES) and DA-ATI-CAR on the implementation of the Urban gardening with the 4-H-Young farmers Field School Program, DA-ATI-CAR will provide technical assistance as a resource person during the experimental training modules. In this connection, Ms. Perla Epie was assigned to discuss how to perform nursery operations. She shared that it is important that nursery practices are favorable for maintaining physiological processes of seedlings that will result in high capacity for growth and survival after out planting. In addition, mother plants are the most important factor for successful nursery.</p>

Prepared by:

BRANDY L. BANDA-AY
M & E/Designated Report Officer
 Date: May 10, 2023

Noted by:

CHARLIE C. SAGUDAN
Center Director/Division Chief
 Date: May 10, 2023